SECOND

REPORT

FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE

Contagious Fever in Ireland.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed, 26 May* 1818.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the state of *Ireland*, as to the prevalence of Contagious Fever in that part of The United Kingdom, and to investigate the causes, temporary and permanent, which have led to the increased progress of this destructive Malady during the last and present year, and to report the same, from time to time, with their Observations thereupon, to The House; and also to report such measures, remedial and preventive, as may seem most efficacious to arrest its further extension, to guard, as far as human foresight can provide, against its recurrence, and to secure adequate means of support to the Establishments destined for the relief of the Diseased;—HAVE further considered the matters to them referred, and have agreed upon the following REPORT:

FROM the probable approach of the prorogation of Parliament, the Committee have been reluctantly compelled to postpone the very important task of a more extended inquiry into the permanent cause of the existence of Fever in the different parts of Ireland, which arise from want of employment for its industrious population, with a view to discover adequate means for their radical and effectual removal as far as may be practicable. They have confined their recommendations for the present therefore to the establishment of Hospitals for relief of the diseased, to securing the funds destined to their support, and to such means as appeared to them best adapted to arrest the progress of the Epidemic, under circumstances of calamitous increase.

An Act is in progress, whose provisions will, they trust, materially conduce to effect these desirable objects.

They cannot, however, terminate their sittings without earnestly impressing on the House, that the continuance of Fever in very many parts of Ireland, with little abatement, requires assiduous care and increased liberality from the Public in aid of the voluntary contributions, from which the hospitals for relief of the diseased in the country parts of Ireland, have hitherto, in a very great degree, derived their support.

This is the more necessary, since as the Medical Board have very truly stated, that with the exception of £. 1,000 raised by subscription for the Cork-street Fever Hospital, the whole of the expense of providing for the Capital has been defrayed by Government, whilst in other cities and districts of Ireland, where Fever has prevailed to as great an extent, compared with

 their

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

tbeir population, the relief of the diseased has arisen, in a very great proportion, from Voluntary Subscriptions. They feel tbemselves more forcibly called upon to notice this, from observing the very great amount to whicb the voluntary subscriptions have extended on the part of the resident gentry and commonalty, especially in Cork, and their declared inability to continue, during another year, similar exertions; and that tbe favourable results wbich have accompanied the active exertions of Government in the decrease of disease in Dublin, fully justify them, as they believe, in this recommendation.

They have reluctlanly been compelled to notice the very small amount of subscriptions which, in any of the lists laid before tbe Committee, appear to have been supplied by the wealthy non-resident landed proprietors of Ireland, witb some honourable exceptions.

The Committee suggest the propriety of measures being taken to ascertain the extent of Fever, and tbe number of deaths from this period until tbe commencement of tbe ensuing session, generally throughout Ireland, by calling for returns from the Clergy of the several Parisbes.

26 May 1818.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

75

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

SECOND

REPORT

FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON

THE

Contagious Fever in Ireland.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
26 *May* 1818.

359.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit